

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for simulating the measurement of a part using a visual measurement  
5 system, the apparatus comprising:  
a computer executing a software program which receives a digital model of a part,  
and renders an image of the model of the part, the image rendered under conditions  
simulating a measurement system, and which evaluates the image to produce a value  
representative of a physical characteristic of the part.
- 10
2. A method of simulating measurement of a physical part using a computer model of  
the physical part, comprising:  
launching measurement software;  
simulating a physical measurement system;  
15 manipulating the simulated measurement system to produce a virtual observation of  
the computer model; and  
analyzing the virtual observation to produce the simulated measurement.
3. A software product including a machine readable medium on which is encoded a  
20 sequenced instructions which when executed cause an apparatus to perform steps of:  
launching measurement software;  
simulating a physical measurement system;  
manipulating the simulated measurement system to produce a virtual observation of  
the computer model; and  
25 analyzing the virtual observation to produce the simulated measurement.